

Correspondence.
Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.
**INTELLIGENT APPLICATION OF
 MANURES.**
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Editor of the Massachusetts Ploughman:—

concentrated commercial fertilizers, because the barn or stable manure contains the three principal elements of plant food in fair proportions, while the concentrated fertilizer may not contain more than one of these three elements; but even in the application of barn manure it is very easy to make mistakes. Green manure may be applied to crops that require plant food before the manure has time to decompose sufficiently to form plant food, or thoroughly decomposed manure may

change in the soil which is so desirable to secure a rapid growth of plants. The farmer who applies even barn manure without first carefully considering the constitution of the soil to which it is to be applied, and the wants of the crops to be grown, will be very likely to apply it so as to lose at least twenty-five per cent. of its value to the crop for which it is applied. Yet the loss by misapplication of barn manure is small indeed to that which frequently occurs in the mis-

planted with Indian corn, which requires phosphoric acid and potash to produce the grain. The result would be a heavy growth of stock and leaves, but only a light crop of grain. Another mistake may be made in applying commercial fertilizers. A field may be planted that is quite deficient in potash, and it may be planted with some crop that requires considerable quantities of this material, but if the farmer does not give the subject intelligent thought he may

of it change to plant food until the crop should be grown and harvested. It is very important to know just when a crop is to want large quantities of any one of the three principal elements of plant food, and also which one; then it is important to know as near as possible how long a fertilizer must be in the soil before it will change so as to be available for plant food. The farmer knowing these things will avoid applying fertilizers at the wrong time, or in the wrong way.

farmers will give the subject their best thoughts and will exercise their highest wisdom there will not be that great waste which there now is. The farmer should make it his business to investigate far enough to give him some idea of the character of the different plants that he desires to grow, and the proportion of the three principal elements of plant food each consumes; and he should make himself familiar with the names of phosphoric acid, potash and nitrogen, and

There are now made so many kinds of fertilizers, compounded in so many different ways, and of so many different materials, that the farmer who fully understands his wants may be able to get fertilizers very nearly adapted to the wants of each crop and to the soil of each particular field. The farmer who has not made himself familiar with the wants of particular crops and the powers of different fertilizers had better confine himself to

vigor, and by the time its power is exhausted the manure will have advanced in decomposition enough to supply the plants with sufficient food to keep them in vigorous condition to the end of the season. When the soil is

